

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 10261 190917Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 PM-05 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /052 W  
-----123957 191203Z /53  
R 190859Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7354

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SHUM, RP  
SUBJECT: MANILA PRESS NOTES RUMORS OF AQUINO AMNESTY RE-  
- QUEST

REF: MANILA 9936

1. SUMMARY: MANILA NEWSPAPERS HAVE PICKED UP WIRE SERVICE REPORTS THAT AQUINO HAS APPLIED FOR AMNESTY AND IS NEGOTIATING INDIRECTLY WITH MARCOS FOR RELEASE AND POSSIBLE EXILE. GOVERNMENT HAS REFUSED TO COMMENT, AND MARCOS PUBLICLY DENIES RECEIVING REQUEST. SCATTERED PRESS COMMENT IS TENTATIVELY FAVORABLE. END SUMMARY.

2. ALL MANILA DAILIES JUNE 18 CARRY FRONT-PAGE REPORTS THAT DETAINED EX-SENATOR BENIGNO AQUINO HAS APPLIED FOR AMNESTY UNDER PRIME MINISTER MARCOS' EXTENDED AMNESTY DECREE ISSUED LAST WEEK AND THAT AGENTS FOR AQUINO AND MARCOS ARE ACTIVELY NEGOTIATING HIS RELEASE "POSSIBLY THIS MONTH" AND LIKELY EXILE. THE REPORTS, APPARENTLY BASED ON WIRE SERVICE ITEMS, SAY AQUINO'S PETITION IS BEING STUDIED BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. LOCAL REPORTERS ADD THAT THE INFORMATION MINISTRY SAID LATE JUNE 17 THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT COMMENT ON THE MATTER, AND THAT MARCOS, ASKED TO COMMENT ON REPORTS THAT AQUINO HAD APPLIED TO HIM  
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FOR AMNESTY, REPLIED, "IF HE HAS, IT HAS NOT REACHED ME."

3. "TIMES JOURNAL" JUNE 19 NOTES THAT INTERIM LEGISLATURE MEMBERS EDDIE ILARDE (A FORMER LIBERAL PARTY SENATOR) AND AMELITO MUTUC (MACAPAGAL'S FORMER EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND AMBASSADOR TO THE US) HAVE ISSUED PUBLIC STATEMENTS SUPPORTING AQUINO'S RELEASE IN THE INTERESTS OF NATIONAL

UNITY.

4. COLUMNIST DOROY VALENCIA IN "DAILY EXPRESS" JUNE 18, COMMENTS CRYPTICALLY ON RECENT MASS RELEASES: "DON'T BE TOO SURPRISED IF, BY AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER, EVERYBODY WHO HAD BEEN MARKED FOR PERMANENT DETENTION WILL BE OUT. DO YOU READ ME?" VALENCIA'S JUNE 19 COLUMN IS HEADLINED "AQUINO AMNESTY SHOULD HELP NAT'L UNITY." EXCERPTS: "THE RELEASE SHOULD NOT BE BURDENED BY CONDITIONS. NOR SHOULD THIS ARRANGEMENT BE CREDITED TO ANY FOREIGN INTERVENTION -- THAT WOULD HURT AQUINO HIMSELF AND NEGATE THE SPIRIT OF THE AMNESTY. ... EVEN THE PERSONAL FORTUNES AND POLITICAL FAME OF PRIME MINISTER MARCOS AND EX-SEN. AQUINO MUST BE SUBORDINATE TO THE OVERRIDING NEED FOR NATIONAL UNITY AND PEACE. NOBODY QUESTIONS THE INTEGRITY OR PATRIOTISM OF NINOY AQUINO. THE COUNTRY CAN ILL-AFFORD TO LOSE SUCH A MAN. ... WE NEED ALL HANDS ON DECK. IN THAT SPIRIT, THE PRESIDENT CAN AFFORD MAGNANIMITY AND A FORGIVING HEART. NOBODY CAN DOUBT HIS SINCERITY. ... AFTER NAPOLEON RAMA OF LABAN AND LUPITA CONCIO, SISTER OF NINOY AQUINO, WERE ALLOWED TO TRAVEL TO THE USA, I WOULD NOT BE THE LEAST SURPRISED IF NINOY HIMSELF IS RELEASED SOON. NINOY IS NOT ACCUSED OF ANY CRIME MORE SERIOUS THAN CRIMES COMMITTED BY HUNDREDS WHO HAVE ALREADY BEEN GIVEN AMNESTY. IT'S ALL A MATTER OF TIME, THE WAY I SEE IT. AFTER ALL, NINOY CAN RELAX WHILE HE PURSUES HIGHER EDUCATION."

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TION IN THE UNITED STATES. HE HAS LONG AGO INDICATED SUCH A DESIRE." MURPHY

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AMNESTY, PRESS COMMENTS, PRISONERS RELEASE  
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**Draft Date:** 19 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Subject:** MANILA PRESS NOTES RUMORS OF AQUINO AMNESTY RE- - QUEST  
**TAGS:** SHUM, RP, (AQUINO, BENIGNO)  
**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014